FURBEARER

1998

TRAPPING & HUNTING REGULATIONS
STATE OF MONTANA

Furbearer trapping and hunting regulations are adopted on an annual basis. The seasons, limits and regulations listed herein are valid through June 30, 1999.

DEFINITIONS

Furbearer animals are legally defined as beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, lynx and swift fox. ONLY MONTANA RESIDENTS MAY TRAP OR HUNT FURBEARERS, LICENSE REQUIRED.

Predatory animals are legally defined as coyote, weasel, skunk and civet cat (spotted skunk). LICENSE REQUIRED FOR NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS ONLY.

Nongame wildlife means any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples of nongame wildlife with commercial value are badger, raccoon and red fox. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS ONLY.

Fur dealer is defined as any person or persons, firm, company or corporation engaging in or conducting wholly or in part the business of buying or selling, trading or dealing within the State of Montana, in the skins or pelts of any animal or animals, designated by the laws of Montana as furbearing or predatory animals. If such fur dealer resides in or if his principal place of business is within the State of Montana, he shall be deemed a resident fur dealer. All other fur dealers shall be deemed nonresident fur dealers.

LICENSES

The following licenses are available at Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices in Kalispell, Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Billings, Glasgow, Miles City and Helena; also available at the Helena, Butte and Havre resource area offices.

Bobcat, lynx and wolverine may be taken only by resident trappers or hunters that purchase a trapper license prior to December 1.

A license is not required for resident trappers/hunters or nonresident hunters to take predatory animals and nongame wildlife.

Conservation (required prerequisite) — $4 Resident and $5 Nonresident.

General Trapper — $20; available only to resident conservation license holders 13 years of age or older.

Youth Trapper — $3; available only to resident conservation license holders 6 through 12 years of age. Valid for mink and muskrat.

Landowner Trapper — $1; applicants must give legal description of land owned or leased, name, address and resident conservation license number.

-------NEW REGULATIONS------

Landowner Permission — Resident trappers must obtain permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before trapping on private land. Nonresidents must obtain written permission from the landowner, lessee or their agent before trapping or snaring predatory animals and nongame wildlife on private property (MCA Sec. 87-2-604).

It is unlawful to set snares on private property without landowner permission (MCA Sec.87-3- 107). Snares must be set in a manner and at a time so as not to duly endanger livestock. A trapper who injures livestock in a snare is liable for damage and this constitutes a misdemeanor.

Right-of-Way —Trapping is prohibited on the right of way of publicly maintained roads.

Conibear Ground Sets — On public or private land ground sets using 220 or 330 conibear traps must have the trap trigger recessed a minimum of seven (7) inches within a secure enclosure that provides openings no greater than fifty (50) square inches each.

Conibear Setbacks — When using a body gripping landset trap, a setback of 50 yards from the approximate centerline of public roads is required.

Bobcat Chasing Hours — See specific regulation under the bobcat portion of these regulations.

LICENSES (Continued)

Nonresident Trapper — $250; available only to nonresident conservation license holders, 13 years of age or older, whose state of residence has nonresident trapper licenses available to Montana trappers. Valid for predatory animals and nongame wildlife. Season Dates: October 16 - April 15.

Fur Dealer — $10 Resident; $10 Agent; $50 Nonresident.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Taking of furbearer animals during the open season by any means other than trapping or snaring is prohibited, unless otherwise stated.

Hunting — Bobcat, lynx and wolverine are the only animals defined by law as furbearing animals that may be taken by hunting (MCA Sec.87-2-601).

Dogs — Dogs may be used to take bobcat (MCA Sec.87-3-124), but no other animals defined by law as furbearing animals.

Checking and Placing Traps — Traps should be checked at least once every 48 hours. It is the trapper's responsibility to check his/her traps regularly. Failure to pick up snares or traps at the end of the trapping season or attending them in a manner that wastes furbearing animals constitutes a misdemeanor.

Exposed Bait — To prevent accidental trapping of raptors, no trap or snare may be set within 30 feet of an exposed carcass placed in a manner that can be seen by soaring raptors. EXEMPTION: trappers employed or contracted by a government agency in the official performance of their duties. Exposed carcass or bait is defined as the meat or viscera of a mammal, bird or fish, or any part thereof more than one pound in weight. Bleached bones are excluded.

Trap Identification — Metal identification tags that bear the name and address of the trapper must be fastened to all traps and snares. Tags should be attached to the end of the snare, chain or other anchoring material at the end farthest from the portion of the device which holds the animal. Snares must also have telephone numbers included on the tag. Landowners who trap on their own lands and irrigation right-of way contiguous to their land do not need to tag traps or snares.

Disturbing Traps or Trapped Animals — It is unlawful to destroy, disturb or remove any trap, snare or trapped wildlife belonging to a trapper without permission of the owner of the trap or snare, except that from May 1 to October 1 a landowner may remove any snare from owned or leased land if such snare could endanger livestock (MCA Sec.87-3-507).

Live Furbearers — Live furbearing animals may not be possessed except under the provisions of the fur farm or roadside zoo permits. It is unlawful to capture wild furbearers for fur farm stock.

Destroying Muskrat and Beaver Houses — It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, open or leave open, a muskrat or beaver house. This shall not prohibit trapping in muskrat houses when authorized by the Commission.

Tagged Furbearers — A number of furbearing animals have been tagged for scientific study. If one of these animals is captured, please notify the nearest game warden or regional office of the tag number or numbers and the locality of the capture.

Non-Target Species — Protected birds or animals found in traps, uninjured, shall be released on site. Species in need of rehabilitation shall be removed and immediately presented to a Fish, Wildlife & Parks office, game warden or biologist. (Dead animals should be left at the trapping site and immediately reported to a Fish, Wildlife & Parks office or field personnel for disposition).

Trespass to Property — Montana law states that private lands can be closed to the public either by posting the land or through verbal communication by landowners or their agents. If permission is granted, the landowner may revoke the permission by personal communication at any time.

School Trust Land — A special use license is required to trap on these lands. For further information contact a Department of Natural Resources and Conservation district office or the state office at 1625 11th Avenue, Helena MT 59620 (406-444-2074).

State Game Preserves, Parks and FWP Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) — All state game preserves are open to trapping. Wildlife Management Areas with big game winter range, unless otherwise posted, are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year, as posted. EXCEPTION: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10. Trapping on Fish, Wildlife & Parks lands and WMAs will be allowed by written authorization of the area manager or a department employee on land not having a resident manager. Beaver Creek Park is open to trapping only by permission obtained from the Hill County Park Board.

The Montana Stream Access law does not apply to the trapping or snaring of furbearers. Trappers are required to obtain permission from the landowner to trap or snare on streams and rivers between the high water marks.

Littering — A person convicted of littering while hunting, trapping, fishing or camping shall forfeit their license or privileges to hunt, trap, fish or camp within Montana for a period of one year.

National Wildlife Refuges — More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public trapping. For additional information on federal regulations, contact Special Agent-in-Charge, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, POB 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver CO 80225 (303)234-4612) or the local manager.

Indian Reservation — Tribal governments may have adopted trapping regulations within the exterior boundaries of their respective reservations. Trappers should be aware that tribal regulations may differ from the statewide trapping regulations adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission. Currently no Montana tribe offers nonmember trapping permits. The question of state-tribal jurisdiction has not been resolved.

Closures — All National Parks, National Wildlife refuges and Indian Trust or Tribal Trust lands are closed to trapping except as otherwise specified. Permits to trap on National Wildlife refuges may be issued by the Refuge office.

Recorded or Electronic Devices — It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals. (MCA Sec.87-3-108).

Pelt Possession — It shall be unlawful for any fur dealer or fur dealer agent to purchase or possess any untagged marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, lynx or otter pelt, except those untagged furs originating outside Montana, when accompanied by an export permit or other documentation of lawful acquisition.

Export — A federal export permit is required in addition to a Montana state tag before the pelts of bobcat, lynx and otter may be exported from the United States. Apply to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 600 Central Plaza, Room 209, Great Falls MT 59401.

If you are transporting game or fish between Montana and Canada, whether for commercial or non-commercial purposes, you must complete a USFWS declaration form. Contact the USFWS Wildlife Inspector at 406-453-5790 or FAX 406-453-3657 for details.

Penalties — Persons convicted of knowingly taking, possessing or transporting furbearers or pelts in violation of the rules or laws, shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $1,000, imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or both. In addition, such person shall forfeit his privilege to hunt, fish or trap for not less than 24 months. Civil restitution from $100 to $500 may be assessed for each illegal animal or pelt.

QUOTAS/SEASONS CLOSURES

Current harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional office during normal business hours or by calling 1-800-711-TRAP (1-800-711-8727) 24 hours a day. Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached prior to the end of the regular season date.

PELT TAGGING

Marten — Marten pelts must be tagged by Fish, Wildlife & Parks personnel residing in the trapping district where animal was taken no later than 10 days after close of the season.

Bobcat, Lynx, Otter, Wolverine & Fisher — Pelts must be tagged by Fish, Wildlife & Parks personnel residing in the trapping district where animal was taken within 72 hours of taking. Trappers or hunters unable to comply with the tagging requirements due to special or unique circumstances must report their harvest and make arrangements for tagging to the proper regional office or by contacting field personnel within 72 hours of harvest. Pelts not registered or presented to department personnel within 72 hours are subject to confiscation.

The species, trapping district, date and tag number will be permanently recorded on the back of the trapper's license when pelts are tagged.

CARCASSES/SKULLS

Lynx, Wolverine, Fisher, Otter, Marten & Bobcat — It is mandatory that the entire and intact carcass of all lynx, wolverine, fisher, otter and the skulls of marten and bobcat be turned into Fish, Wildlife & Parks in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. The skulls will be retained by Fish, Wildlife & Parks for processing and examination and then returned to the owner if desired. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples are suitable for lab analysis. Any lynx, wolverine, fisher or otter pelt that is presented for tagging without the carcass in good condition, shall be subject to confiscation.

FURBEARER SEASONS

The state is divided into seven legally described trapping districts, designated by numbers, wherein the season dates, limits and species of furbearers which may be taken are specified.

BEAVER — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: November 1 - April 15 of the following year, except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures. (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS and CLOSURES)

Beaver that have been legally trapped can be dispatched with a firearm.

Owners and lessees of real estate being damaged by beaver may apply for a permit to trap beaver under provisions of the law. Please see your local game warden for further information.

Trappers participating in a beaver damage complaint must have in their possession the damage permit issued to the landowner (or a copy thereof) during trapping activities.

OTTER — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: November 1 - April 15 of the following year, except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS and CLOSURES)

Limit— Persons may take and possess one (1) otter each per season. (See PELT TAGGING and CARCASSES/SKULLS). The otter season on the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed to all trappers (members and nonmembers).

MUSKRAT — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: November 1 - April 15 of the following year, except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures. (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS)

Traps may be set in muskrat houses provided the part removed is replaced after insertion of the trap and after removal of the trap. It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, leave open or partially destroy a muskrat house.

MINK — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: November 1 - April 15 of the following year except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures. (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS)

MARTEN — SEASON DATES: TRAPPING DISTRICT 1 through 5: December 1 - February 15 of the following year (See PELT TAGGING AND CARCASSES/SKULLS)

FISHER — SEASON DATES: TRAPPING DISTRICTS 1 & 2: December 1 - February 15 of the following year. Fisher season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the trapping district quota or on February 15, whichever occurs first.

Limit — Persons may take and possess one (1) fisher each per season. (See PELT TAGGING AND CARCASSES/SKULLS)

Quota - Trapping District 1 has a quota of two (2) fishers. Trapping District 2 has a quota of five (5) fishers. Statewide Quota is seven (7) fishers.

Accidentally trapped fishers that cannot be released uninjured must be immediately reported to Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

WOLVERINE — SEASON DATES: TRAPPING DISTRICTS 1 through 5: December 1 - February 15 of the following year. License must be purchased prior to December 1.

Limit — Persons may take and possess one (1) wolverine each per season. (See PELT TAGGING and CARCASSES/SKULLS)

BOBCAT — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: Trapping districts 1, 2 and 3: December 1 - February 15 of the following year; Trapping districts 4, 5, 6 and 7: December 1 - March 1 of the following year. License must be purchased prior to December 1. Season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the trapping district quota.

Limit - Persons may take and possess seven (7) bobcats each per season in Trapping Districts 1, 2 and 3. There is no per trapper limit in the remaining districts. (See PELT TAGGING and CARCASSES/ SKULLS). The bobcat season on the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed to all trappers (members and nonmembers).

District:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
QUOTA	150	140	125	175	200	100	600

Chase - A hound handler who has purchased a mountain lion license marked for hound handling, or a free hound handler permit, may legally chase bobcat during the hunting season and any time after the season is closed in the trapping district, or until April 14. A hound handler permit must be obtained prior to December 1 of the current year.

USE OF DOGS: dogs may be used to chase or hunt bobcats within prescribed seasons. Bobcat hunting is open each day from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Bobcat chasing is open each day from two hours before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset in the hunting districts where mountain lion season has closed (Check mountain lion toll free line 1-800-385-7826); Bobcat chasing is open each day from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset in the hunting districts where mountain lion season is open. BOBCATS MAY NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL LEGAL BOBCAT HUNTING HOURS. It is prohibited for a hound handler or bobcat hunter to release dogs on a bobcat track, or allow dogs to chase a bobcat, or hold a bobcat at bay when the season is not open to hunting or chasing bobcats.

CHASE ONLY SEASON: ALL TRAPPING DISTRICTS are open each day from two hours before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for the CHASE ONLY season February 16 -

RER TRAPPING & HUNTING DISTRICTS
s Available. Please Call 406-444-2612

DISTRICT 4

Those portions of Hill, Glacier, Chouteau, Toole, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson Meagher, Park, Judith Basin, Fergus and Petroleum counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the eastern boundary of Glacier National Park intersects the United States-Canada Boundary, then east along said boundary to a county road approximately one mile west of the Liberty-Hill County line, then southerly along said road to U.S. Highway 2 at Joplin, then west along said highway to State Route 223 at Chester, then south along said route to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then easterly and southerly along the south edge of said reservoir to the Musselshell River, then southerly along the west bank of said river to Flatwillow Creek, then westerly along the north bank of said creek to Durfee Creek, then westerly along said creek to Little Snowy Mountain Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Musselshell-Missouri Divide, then southeasterly and easterly along said divide to the Sixteen Mile-Musselshell River Divide, then southerly and easterly to the Sixteen Mile Creek-Shields River divide, then westerly and southerly along said divide to the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then northeasterly along the north bank of said creek to the Missouri River-Battle Creek divide, then northerly along said divide to the Missouri River-Smith River divide, then northwesterly along said divide to the Soup Creek-Beaver Creek divide, then westerly along said divide to Hauser Dam on the Missouri River, then southerly along the east shore of the Missouri River to the Canyon Ferry Reservoir, then westerly across the Missouri River and southeasterly along the west shore of Canyon Ferry Reservoir to the Beaver Creek-Spokane Creek divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Beaver Creek-Prickly Pear Creek divide, then southwesterly up said divide to the Crow Creek-Prickly Pear Creek divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Boulder River-Prickly Pear Creek divide, then northwesterly along said divide to the Continental Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary, then easterly and northerly along said boundary to the United States-Canada boundary, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 5

Those portions of Fergus, Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, Stillwater, Sweet grass, Wheatland, Park, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Carbon and Treasure counties lying within the following described boundaries: Beginning at Wolverine Peak where the Stillwater-Yellowstone River divide meets with the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Interstate 90, then easterly along said interstate to U.S. Highway 191, then northerly along said highway to the Yellowstone River, then westerly along the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Missouri-Musselshell River divide, then northerly and easterly along said divide to Little Snowy Mountain Divide, then easterly along said divide to the head of Durfee Creek, then down said creek to Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along the north bank of Flatwillow Creek to the Musselshell River, then south down the east bank of the Musselshell River to the Melstone-Custer Road bridge, 1-1/2 miles south of Melstone, then south along the Melstone-Custer Road to the north bank of the Yellowstone River, then east down the north bank of said river to its confluence with the Bighorn River, then south up the east bank of the Bighorn River to Manning Diversion Dam, then southerly along the Bighorn-Tullock Creek Divide to the Little Bighorn Tullock Creek Divide, then southerly along said divide to the Little Bighorn-Rosebud Creek Divide, then southerly along said divide to the Little Bighorn-Tongue River Divide, then southerly along said divide to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then westerly along said line to the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then northerly and westerly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River divide at Wolverine Peak, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 6

Those portions of Liberty, Hill, Choteau, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Richland, Roosevelt, Garfield and McCone Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said line to the county road west of the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said road to U.S. Highway 2 to State Route 223 at Chester, then south along said route to the Marias River, then southerly along said river to the Missouri River, then east and southeast along said river to Fort Peck Reservoir, then east and south along said reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south along said creek to State Route 200, then east and northeast along said route to the North Dakota border, then north along said border to the Canadian Border, then west along said border to State Route 233, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 7

Those portions of Bighorn, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Treasure, Yellowstone, Wibaux Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, then west along the Yellowstone River to the Custer-Melstone Road, then north along said road to Melstone, then east along U.S. Highway 12 to the Musselshell River bridge, then north down the east bank of the Musselshell River to the Missouri River, then east and north down the said river to Fort Peck Powerhouse, then south along the east shore of the Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south up said creek to Little Dry Creek, then east along State Route 200 to the Montana-North Dakota state line, then south to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then west along said state line to the Little Bighorn-Tongue River Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Little Bighorn-Rosebud Creek Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Little Bighorn-Tullock Creek Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Manning Diversion Dam on the east bank of the Bighorn River, then along said river to the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, the point of beginning.

FURBEARER TRAPPIN

& HUNTING DISTRICTS MAP

eas - Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park

DISTRICT 1

Those portions of Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Continental Divide intersects with the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, then westerly and northerly along the Glacier National Park boundary to the Canadian line, then westerly along the said line to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly along said border to its junction with the Sanders-Mineral County line, then easterly along said county line to Trail 404 near Combpest Peak, then east on Trail 404 to Miller Creek Loop Road, then along Miller Creek and Forest Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, then southerly on Trail 1714 to Miller Creek Loop Road, then along Miller Creek and Forest Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, then southerly on Trail 1714 to Montana Route 135, then easterly along said route to Trail 242, then southerly along said trail to Clark Fork-Ninemile Divide, then easterly along said divide and Sanders County line to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then northerly and easterly and then southerly along said reservation to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then east and north along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide at Wolverine Peak, then south, east and north along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 2

Those portions of Deer Lodge, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Ravalli Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lookout Pass on the Montana-Idaho border, then in an easterly direction along the Mineral County-Sanders County line to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Combpest Peak, then east on said trail to Miller Creek Loop Forest Service Road, then east along said road to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 415, then south and east on said trail to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then south on said trail to the Clark Fork River at the Cascade Campground, then south along Forest Service Trail 242 to the Ninemile-Seigel Creek Divide, then easterly along said divide to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide, then southerly, easterly and northerly along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then southeasterly along said divide to the Deer Lodge-Silver Bow County line, then southerly and westerly along said line to Interstate 90, then southerly along said interstate to U.S. Highway 10A, then northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then westerly and northerly along said border to Lookout Pass, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 3

Those portions of Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Meagher, Park and Silver Bow Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Mt. Tiny on the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly and westerly along said border to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly and easterly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Interstate 90, then easterly along said interstate to U.S. Highway 192, then northerly along said highway to the Yellowstone River, then westerly along the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then northeasterly along the south bank of said creek to the Missouri River-Battle Creek divide, then northerly along said divide to the Missouri River-Smith River divide, then northwesterly along said divide to the Soup Creek-Beaver Creek divide, then westerly along said divide to Hauser Dam on the Missouri River, then southerly along the east shore of the Missouri River to the Canyon Ferry Reservoir, then westerly across the Missouri River and southeasterly along the west shore of Canyon Ferry Reservoir to the Beaver Creek-Prickly Pear Creek divide, then southwesterly up said divide to the Crow Creek-Prickly Pear Creek divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Boulder River-Prickly Pear Creek divide, then northwesterly along said divide to the Continental Divide, then westerly and southwesterly along said divide to the Deer Lodge-Silver Bow County line, then southerly and westerly along said line to Interstate 90, then southerly along said interstate to U.S. Highway 10A, then northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274, then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide near Mt. Tiny, the point of beginning.

Upper Madison Beaver Management Area: Those portions of Gallatin and Madison counties that include all of the Madison River drainage upstream from the Earthquake Lake Dam described as follows: Beginning at the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam on the Madison River, then northerly to U.S. Highway 287, then northeasterly to the intersection of Rock Creek, then up said creek to the Beaverhead-Gallatin National Forest boundary, then northerly on said boundary to the Madison River-Gallatin River divide, then easterly along said divide to the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park, then south along said boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line, then westerly and northerly along this boundary to the Madison River, then easterly along said river to the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam, the point of beginning.

April 14; All Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges and Deer, Elk & Mountain Lion Hunting District 282 are closed to bobcat chase season.

LYNX — SEASON DATES: TRAPPING DISTRICT 1, 2, 3 and 4: December 1 - February 15 of the following year. License must be purchased prior to December 1. Season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the trapping district quota or state quota or on February 15 of the following year, whichever occurs first.

Limit - Persons may take and possess one (1) lynx each per season (See PELT TAGGING AND CARCASSES/SKULLS) The lynx season on the Flathead Reservation is closed to all trappers (members and nonmembers).

Quota — Trapping Districts 1 and 2 have a quota of one (1) lynx; Trapping Districts 3 and 4 have a quota of one (1) lynx. Statewide quota is two (2) lynx.

Accidentally trapped lynx that cannot be released uninjured must be immediately reported to MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

SWIFT FOX — CLOSED SEASON. Accidentally trapped swift fox that cannot be released uninjured must be immediately reported to Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Mt. Haggin Wildlife Management Area — The Mt.Haggin WMA consists of trapping units where a quota of three (3) licensed trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers each, including ten (10) beaver. Trappers will be selected by a random drawing. Trappers will be able to select an area to trap in the order of names drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. All trapping permits are valid through April 15. Trappers wishing to take predators must contact Craig Fager for a trapping permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Craig Fager, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Butte Area Resource Office, 1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte MT 59701

Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area — The Freezout Lake WMA is divided into four (4) different trapping units for furbearers. Three of these units consist of ponds and are available for trapping to interested trappers by drawing only. Two trapping seasons are designated: fall (November 1 to December 31) and spring (January 1 to April 15). After April 1 no traps will be allowed in/on muskrat houses or hay bale nesting structures. Trappers and trapping units will be selected/assigned by random drawing. Unless supply exceeds demand, any one trapper may trap only one unit and/or season per year. The fourth trapping unit consists of the Main Lake and Priest Lake. The Main Lake and Priest Lake will be open to any/all interested trappers except those persons already holding drawn permission to trap an area on the WMA. Trapping, hunting and access within the waterfowl closure on the south end of the Main Lake is prohibited until November 20. Any part of the WMA that is open to public access is open to interested parties for the hunting and/or

trapping of predators and nongame wildlife. Interested trappers must submit their name, address, telephone number, valid trapper's license number and indicate the season for which they wish to be considered by September 15 to:

Freezout Lake WMA/Trapping
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
POB 488, Fairfield MT 59436

Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area — The Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area is divided into two (2) trapping units with only one unit open to trapping in a given year. One trapper will be selected by a random drawing and will be notified which unit is open for trapping. Applicants should be aware that only limited populations of most furbearers exist on the WMA and that most access is by foot. No trapping will be allowed on the WMA until the end of the pheasant season. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Tom Carlsen
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Box 998, Townsend MT 59644

Upper Madison Beaver Management Area - Refer to Legal Description.
The upper Madison trapping area consists of seven (7) units for beaver and otter with quotas for each species. Trapping season is October 15 through April 30 by permit only. Trapping units will be allocated based upon a random drawing of written trapper applications. Trappers may select a trapping area in the order their names are drawn. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap five (5), or ten (10) beaver depending on the trapping area assigned. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Kurt Alt, Montana
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S. 19th Avenue, Bozeman MT 59715

Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area — The Blackfoot-Clearwater Area is divided into two (2) trapping units (Clearwater River and Cottonwood Creek), and trapping is permitted during two (2) periods (November 1 - January 31; February 1 - April 15), with one trapper per unit and time period (4 trappers total). Trappers will be selected by a random drawing. The first trapper will be asked to choose a unit and period, the second trapper drawn will be offered the remaining choices, and so on. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers, including ten (10) beaver. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Mike Thompson
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59801

Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area — The Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area consists of one (1) trapping unit. A spring trapping season is designated: January 1 to April 15. No trapping will be allowed on the Area until after the waterfowl hunting season. One

trapper will be permitted to trap furbearers and predators. The trapper will be selected by a random drawing. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Gayle Joslin
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
930 Custer Avenue West, Helena MT 59620

CLOSED TO BEAVER/OTTER TRAPPING

NOTE — All areas closed to beaver trapping are also closed to otter trapping.

Beaverhead County —Trail Creek and Trapper Creek drainages and Canyon Creek upstream from the National Forest boundary.

Broadwater County — Those portions of Dry Creek, Confederate Gulch, White Gulch, Avalanche Gulch, Eagle Creek, Crow Creek and Jenkins Creek on public land.

Deer Lodge County — The entire Dry Cottonwood Creek drainage.

Gallatin County — That portion of the Gallatin River and all of its tributaries above the Gallatin River Bridge at the Squaw Creek Ranger Station.

Gallatin and Park Counties —That portion of the Yellowstone River and all of its tributaries inside the Gallatin National Forest boundary above the Yellowstone River Bridge on Interstate Highway 90 at Livingston.

Granite County —The entire Smart Creek, Wyman Creek, Swamp Gulch Creek, and Sand Basin Creek drainages.

Lewis and Clark County — The Blackfoot River upstream from the mouth of Bartlett Creek including the entire Bartlett Creek drainage.

Mineral County — The entire Cedar Creek, Big Creek and Flatrock Creek drainages.

Missoula and Mineral Counties — The entire Fish Creek drainage.

Missoula County — Nine Mile Creek drainage above Pine Creek.

Powell County — The entire Pikes Peak drainage.

Sweet Grass County — That portion of the East Boulder River and all its tributaries from the Gallatin National Forest boundary upstream to the headwaters of the East Boulder River.

Sweet Grass and Park Counties — That portion of the Main Boulder River and all its tributaries from the mouth of Falls Creek upstream to the headwaters of the Main Boulder River.

Teton County — The entire Teton drainage including all tributaries of the South, Middle, West and North Forks of the Teton River, downstream to the US Forest Service boundary.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters and Area Resource Offices

REGION 1
490 North Meridian Rd.
KALISPELL 59901
406-752-5501

REGION 2
3201 Spurgin Road
MISSOULA 59801
406-542-5500

REGION 3
1400 South 19th
BOZEMAN 59715
406-994-4042

1820 Meadowlark Lane
BUTTE 59701
406-494-1953

930 Custer Avenue West
HELENA 59620
406-444-4720

REGION 4
4600 Giant Springs Road
GREAT FALLS 59406
406-454-5840

REGION 5
2300 Lake Elmo Drive
BILLINGS 59105
406-247-2940

REGION 6
Route 1-4210
GLASGOW 59230
406-228-3700

2165 Highway 2 East
HAVRE 59501
406-265-6177

REGION 7
POB 1630
MILES CITY 59301
406-232-0900

STATE HEADQUARTERS
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
HELENA 59620
406-444-2535

Trapper Education

Resident trappers are encouraged to participate in the voluntary trapper education program.

LINCOLN
FLATHEAD
1
GLACIER
TOOLE
LIBERTY
HILL
BLAINE
PHILLIPS
6
VALLEY
DANIELS
SHERIDAN
ROOSEVELT
PONDERA
TETON
CHOTEAU
4
SANDERS
LAKE
Mc CONE
RICHLAND
MINERAL
LEWIS & CLARK
CASCADE
FERGUS
PETROLEUM
GARFIELD
DAWSON
WIBAUX
MISSOULA
2
POWELL
JUDITH BASIN
PRAIRIE
GRANITE
MEAGHER
WHEATLAND
MUSSELSHELL
7
ROSEBUD
FALLON
BROAD-WATER
GOLDEN VALLEY
TREASURE
CUSTER
DEER LODGE
JEFFERSON
RAVALLI
SILVER BOW
SWEET GRASS
YELLOWSTONE
STILLWATER
5
GALLATIN
CARTER
3
PARK
BIGHORN
POWDER RIVER
BEAVERHEAD
MADISON
CARBON

TURN IN POACHERS

with this information

- What, Where
- When, Who
- How

1-800-TIP-MONT

(847-6668)

NOTICE TO TRAPPERS

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has established a Montana Trapper Advisory Committee to review trapping regulations. As a reminder, it is important for trappers to review regulations for changes.

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA and are valid July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on August 7,1998. Patrick J. Graham, Secretary.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks